

SITUATION REPORT NO. 10
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: April 30, 1999 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding, has resulted in overland and river flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,445.8 feet on April 30, a 0.80-foot rise since the last Situation Report was issued on April 21.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has reported that the Souris River remains above flood stage at four gauging sites, including Foxholm and Westhope, where it is slowly dropping. The level at Foxholm measured 13.28 feet on April 30; flood stage is 10 feet. At Westhope, the river measured 14.9 feet; flood stage is 10 feet. Little change is expected at the other two sites in Towner and Bantry. The river measured 55.10 feet in Towner, where flood stage is 52 feet, and 12.7 feet at Bantry; flood stage is 11 feet.

Stutsman County officials have reported that the area continues to experience major damage to both county and township roads because extremely high water tables have caused saturated subgrades. Overland flooding has caused culvert and road washouts, shoulder erosion and inundation of roadways. In western Stutsman County, many of the closed basins located in that area continue to fill every year and are near capacity or are overtopping. The worst area is Crystal Springs, located west of Medina, where water from basins are threatening county roads, rail lines and electrical power utilities. The ice storm in early April caused extensive damage to trees and power lines. Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) received damage to several of its steel power line structures this spring when ice shifted on a lake. One structure was destroyed by ice action. Infrastructure damage includes inundation of a section of old N.D. Highway 10. Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad has one mile of rail line that is in danger of inundation. The railroad spent \$1 million to raise the track last year, and may need to expend as much to elevate it again. The Jamestown Dam reservoir crested April 21 at 1,441.6 feet; last year's peak was 1,439 feet. The reservoir level is slowly dropping. The reservoir at Pipestem Dam is close to cresting and measures 1,466 feet. Last year's peak elevation was 1,457 feet. Both dams are releasing a combined amount of 750 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water. While these releases appear to not have caused damages at this time, officials are worried that heavy rain could cause localized flooding in Jamestown.

McHenry County officials report that water levels are still high in the northwest quadrant of the county, but water has receded in the other quadrants.

In neighboring Pierce County, officials have received reports of collapsed walls and water seepage in basements. Six inches of water inundated Highway 60.

High water tables in Williams County have resulted in the failure of six sewers in the West Acres Subdivision of Williston Township. Homeowners in the area are pumping water from the basement.

4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer has requested support from Region VIII of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in conducting a local, state and federal Preliminary Damage Assessment in flood-damaged areas of North Dakota. The request is based on an estimated \$9 million in infrastructure damages and emergency protective measures costs reported by 17 counties, four electrical cooperatives and one state agency. Four additional counties and two Indian reservations are preparing initial damage estimates.

Repair work has begun on flood-damaged manholes in the city of Minnewaukan.

Stutsman County Road crews are elevating roads in attempt to prevent inundation.

Since the last Situation Report, McIntosh County and the Spirit Lake Tribe have issued disaster declarations. Emergency declarations were issued by the city of Devils Lake and LaMoure, Ransom, Renville and Stutsman Counties.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: USACE, Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

9. OTHER: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 13, at the Ramsey County Courthouse Basement Meeting Room.

Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director